

B O R O U G H O F C O W B R I D G E

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1 9 4 3

IMMUNISATION

Number of children immunised during 1943. 26.

Total percentage of children immunised
up to 1943 :-

(1) Under 5 years of age	44.08.
(2) Over 5 years of age	62.68.

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1943

July 1944

To: The Chairman and Members of the)
Public Health Committee of the)
Borough of Cowbridge.)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1943 which I have drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 2604 (1942) and 2773 (1943) (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

On the instructions contained in the Welsh Board of Health's Circular, the Report has been further shortened, and for reasons of National Security, the population and any figures which may be used to arrive at the population have been omitted.

S E C T I O N . A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	84
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book.	275
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	222.44
Rateable value of District	25387.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The following statistics furnished by the Registrar General relate to the net births and deaths within the Borough, after correction of inward and outward transfers :-

Crude Birth Rate per 1000	17.0.
Still Births	2
Crude Death Rate per 1000	13.7.
Deaths from Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year

Number of deaths	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000.	95.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	1
" " Measles " "	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (Under two years of age)	Nil.

Deaths

Crude death rate Cowbridge Borough	13.7.
Death Rate for England and Wales	12.1.
Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	12.4.
Death Rate for Urban Districts in Glamorgan	12.9.

The following table shows the number of deaths during the year under various causes :-

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total.
Heart Disease	3	1	4
Cancer	-	1	1
Circulatory Disease	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	-	2
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-
Intracran. Vasc. Lesions	1	1	2
Ill Defined	-	-	-
Bronchitis	-	2	2
Premature Birth	1	-	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Other Digestive diseases	1	1	2
Nephritis	-	1	1
All other diseases	1	1	2
TOTALS	9	8	17

S E C T I O N . B .GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE AREA

The following are the Public Health Officers serving under the Local Authority :-

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :-

Dr D.J.Evans, M.R.C.S. (Eng) L.R.C.P. (London) M.O.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (full time)

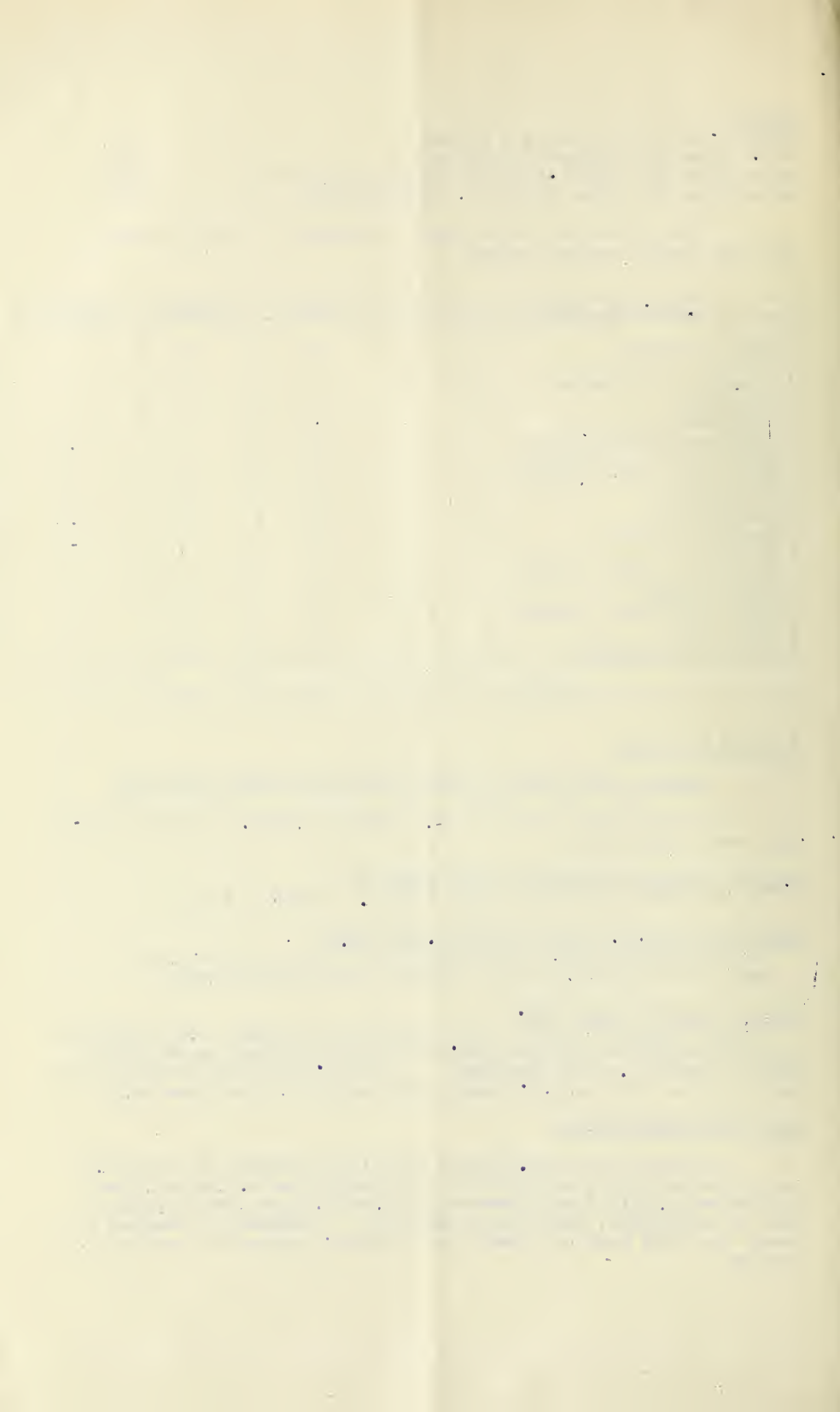
Clifford H.Symmonds, A.R. San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M. Inst. B.E.
Meat and Food Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

Health Visitor (part time)

Nurse Rawnsley who is a full time Health Visitor for Cowbridge Rural District Council has recently been appointed as Part Time Health Visitor for the Borough. A Clinic has been arranged and meetings for this purpose take place monthly in the Town Hall.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

As there are no laboratory facilities within the District, arrangements have been made for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens at the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, The Parade, Cardiff. A number of samples of water and milk have been sent for analysis during the period under review.



DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE The drainage system of the Borough is very inadequate. With the exception of the new houses which are drained to cesspools, and a section of the older houses having been converted to a cesspool system and a much older section which connects up with a drain which discharges crude sewerage into the River Thaw, we are still very dependant upon the antiquated Pail and Privy-Midden system. The channels each side of the road in Eastgate Street which for many years has acted as the Town drain for all surface water including roof water, Household, sinks etc., has gone into disrepair and many miniature cesspools are formed in every dry period. This is not only unsightly but the odour arising therefrom is a continual source for complaint.

As in previous Reports, I must again state that the drainage system of the Borough leaves much to be desired being very unsatisfactory and is undoubtedly a potential danger to the Public Health. I cannot over emphasise the urgent need for substituting the present system by a more modern one.

RIVERS AND STREAMS As previously reported, the crude sewage and slop water from houses in the District is discharged into the River Thaw which flows through the Borough.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

W.Cs. connected to Cesspools	145
Closets connected to Town Drain	50
Closets emptying direct to River	5
Pail Closets	16
Middens	161

PUBLIC CLEANSING A local Haulage Contractor holds a Contract with the Local Authority for the twice weekly removal of the house refuse within the area. The refuse is disposed of in an old quarry situated within the area of the Cardiff Rural District Council and about three miles from the Town. The tip is regularly treated for rats and there is now no undue infestation. This tipping ground being almost full, arrangements have been made for a new tipping ground.

A Sanitary Cart is kept by the Local Authority for the purpose of emptying the contents of the cesspools within the Borough at the owners expense. The contents are disposed of by emptying over agricultural land.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA The Sanitary Inspection of the area is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

SHOPS The Sanitary Inspector holds the appointment of Shops Inspector and periodical inspections are made to ensure that the requirements of the Shops Act 1934 Public Health Act 1936 and Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 are carried out.

SMOKE ABATEMENT It has not been necessary to take any action for smoke nuisances during the year.

RODENTS As requested by the Ministry of Food, a survey of the Borough was made and a plan and Report sent to London. Whilst we have no Reservoir Type of Infestation, we have got a Major Primary Infestation and steps have been taken for some considerable time to keep them to a minimum, though this is very difficult in view of the absence of properly trapped sewers and the



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antiquity of the store buildings.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) For Infectious Cases :-

The Cowbridge Borough Council contribute towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital, and the Infectious Disease Ambulance of this Hospital is available, when necessary, for the removal of Infectious Cases from the District.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases :-

No Ambulance is available within the District for Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. Whenever an Ambulance is required for these cases, arrangements are made with the St John's Ambulance.

NURSING IN THE HOME

This service has now been discontinued as far as possible.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

There are no Hospitals situated within the Borough. Fever. The Local Authority contribute towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital where cases of Infectious Disease occurs in the area requiring Hospital treatment.

Smallpox The Local Authority also contribute towards the Bridgend Smallpox Hospital.

General Hospital Patients from the District requiring treatment are admitted to either of the following Hospitals:- The Bridgend and District Cottage Hospital, Bridgend Infirmary or the Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

Tuberculosis Hospital A Tuberculosis Clinic established under King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association is situated at Bridgend about six miles from the Borough. Suspected cases are examined at this Clinic and, if necessary, arrangements are made for the admission of the infected persons to one of the various Sanatoria under the control of the Association.

Maternity Hospital When necessary, expectant Mothers are admitted to the Bridgend or Cardiff Infirmaries.

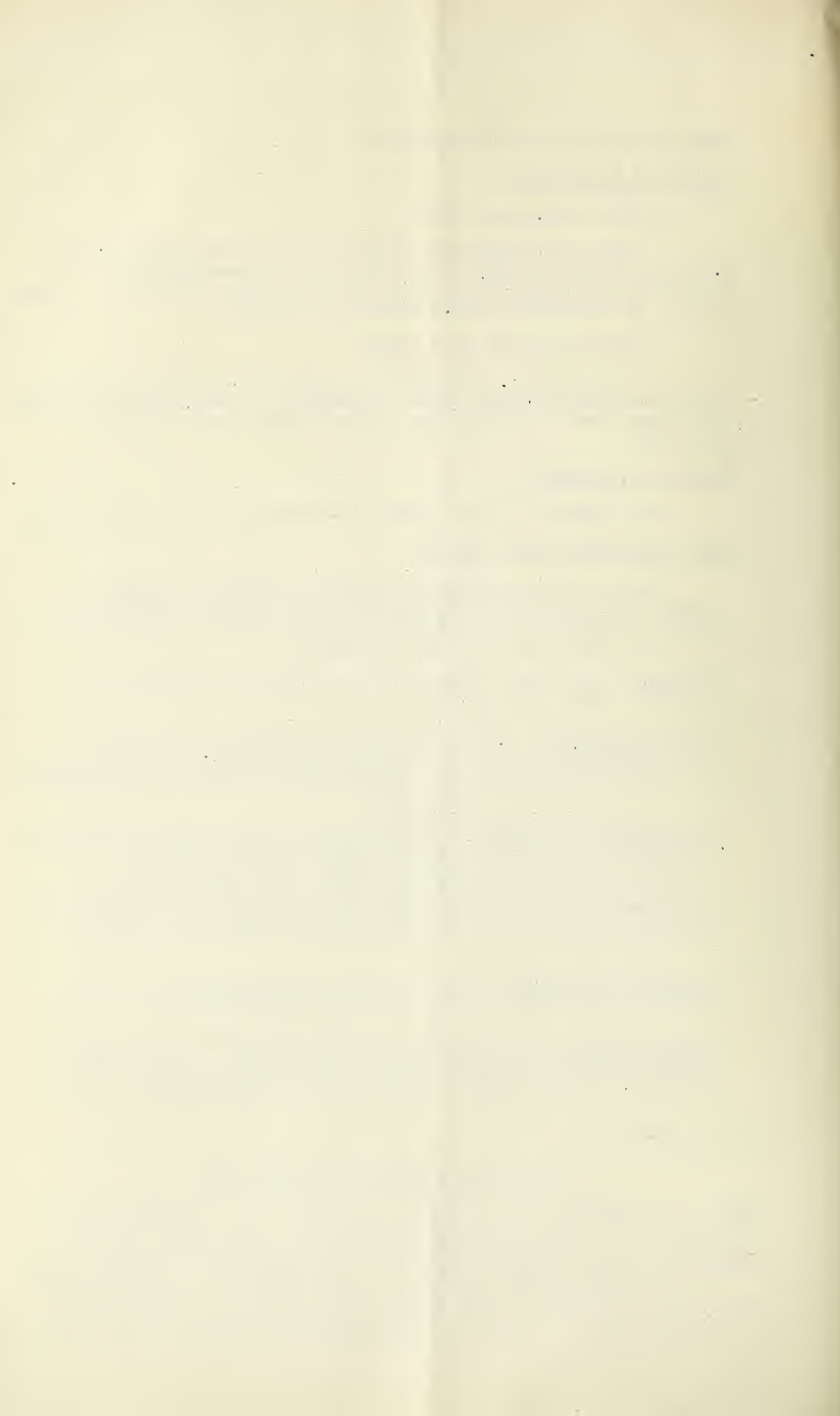
Immunisation A considerable number of children have been immunised against Diphtheria during the year. I have also advertised at the Schools etc., so as to ensure that every advantage may be taken of immunisation facilities.

S E C T I O N . C .

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER A constant water supply is provided for the Borough from the mains of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board. Samples of the supply were taken at different points in January, March, June and October of the year under review. All samples were satisfactory.

Continual complaints are being received in respect of the hardness of the water in the Public mains which fluctuates between 20 and 30 degrees. It would be a great advantage to the Borough and surrounding Districts if a water softening plant was installed.



SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS The Local Authority has control over one swimming pool which is constructed in the bed of the River Thaw. The flow of water through the pool is continuous and it is periodically emptied and cleansed. During the summer months, a Caretaker is in attendance at the pool and a daily washing of dressing rooms etc., is carried out.

SCHOOL There are two Schools within the Borough, namely, The Cowbridge Grammar School and Pontfaen Council School.

Cowbridge Grammar School is situated in the centre of the Town. A constant supply of water is laid on and the new Annexe is fitted with modern showers, baths, water closets etc.

Pontfaen Council School is situated on Broadway and is served with a constant supply of water. The sanitary condition is still antiquated and consists of pail closets (separate for sexes) and two urinals. Provision is made for the regular removal of the pail contents which has to be buried.

S E C T I O N. D. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

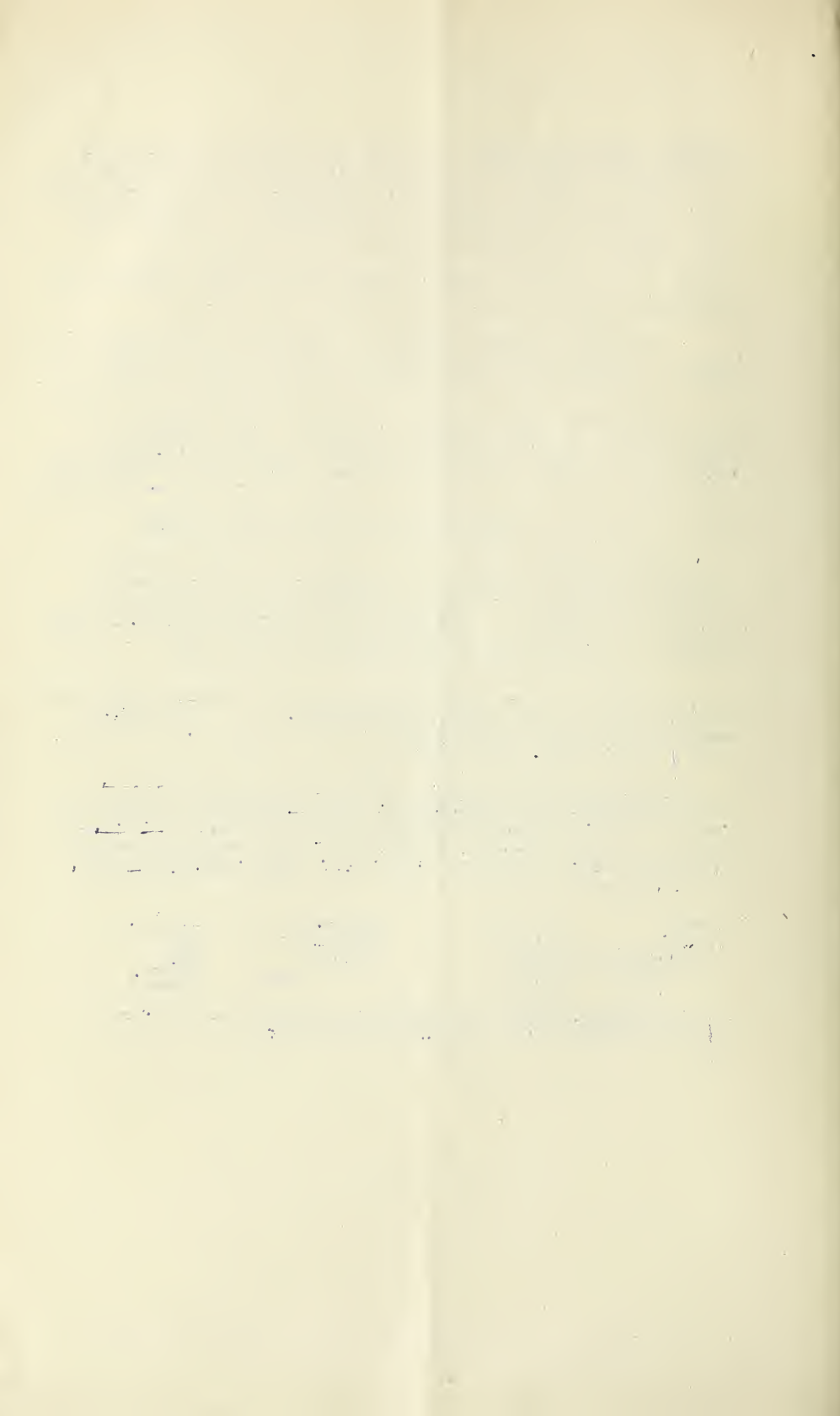
(a) Milk supply There is one Registered milk retailer residing within the Borough. Inspections were frequently made of the Dairy which was always found to be kept in a satisfactory manner. There are no producers of milk in the Borough. There are five Registered milk purveyors residing outside the district who sell milk within the area.

Nine samples were taken during the period under review and submitted to the County Laboratories. With the exception of one or two samples having a high B Goli content, the remainder were satisfactory.

(b) Meat and Other Foods Since the Centralisation of Slaughterhouses, no animals have been slaughtered within the area. As previously reported, the butcher and grocer shops in the area are regularly inspected and the amount of meat and other goods surrendered unfit for human consumption was as follows :-

Meat	87 lbs	Butter	22 lbs
Offal	16 "	Margarine	15 "
Tinned Foods	49½ "	Cheese	Nil
Total	<u>152½ lbs</u>	Total	<u>37 lbs</u>

(c) Adulteration The administration of the Foods and Drugs Act 1938 is carried out by the Police.



SECTION. E.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The following Table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified etc., during the year 1943 :-

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Smallpox	Nil	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	3	-
Enteric Fever	Nil		
Puerperal Fever	Nil		
Pneumonia	1		
Dysentery	Nil		
Whooping Cough	1		
Measles	3		
Total	9	4.	

Tuberculosis

New cases and Mortality during 1943

Age Periods.	NEW CASES						DEATHS	
	Respiratory.		Non.Respt.		Respt.		Non Respt	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
1 - 5	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
5 - 15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
15 - 25	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
25- 35	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
35 - 45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
45 - 55	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
55 - 65	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
65 years and over.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

